For Independence and Fraternity

Nippon Times

For Common Prosperity And Well-Being

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DOOM IS SEALED OF TRAPPED FOE IN MAYU SECTOR

British 7th Division Cut Off From All Succor in Sinzeiwwa Basin

HEAVY CLASH RAGING

Japanese Troopers Display Ingenuity in Providing Needed War Materials

By K. MURAKAWA
Of the Army Press Corps

UNDISCLOSED BASE ON THE BURMA FRONT, February 26.—Face-to-face with the relentless and vigorous assaults of the Japanese Forces, the fate of the seventh division of the British army trapped in the narrow basin of Sinzeiwwa in the Mayu Range now hangs in balance.

Since February 21, the activities of the Imperial Japanese Forces, which caught up with X thousand troops of a powerful unit of the British seventh division in the Sinzeiwwa basin on the eastern part of the Mayu mountain range, has been intensified. Furious battles are continuing with the enemy, who have been making desperate counter-attacks against the Japanese.

With their communications line, cut off, more than a half of the enemy troops have been lost due to lack of ammunition and food. More than 80 per cent of several hundred tanks and XX guns, on which the enemy depended for carrying out their desperate resistance, have been demolished.

Now, the recovery from the disastrous war situation by the British troops who rely solely upon material resources is seen as hopeless.

The enemy is at present striving to rescue its high-ranking officers and the wounded by transport planes, but this attempt also is being frustrated by the Japanese Forces.

With all means of rescue having been cut off, the fate of the British seventh division is now a mere question of time.

Japanese Ingenuity Proven

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE ON THE BURMA FRONT, February 26.—The strenuous efforts being exercised by Japanese troops at the war fronts to obtain required supply of arms, and needed parts by means of materials available on the spot were disclosed recently in the words of praise given to Superior Private Murata and two unit of the Japanese Forces by the Unit Commander to whom they belong.

The success of the Japanese Army Air Force on the Burma front, where no day passes without severe air battle, is attributable to the painstaking efforts of the men who are responsible for the supply of new arms and vital parts. Among others, Superior Private Susumu Murata (a native of Okuni-mura, Niwa-gun, Aichi-ken) of XX Unit, as well as the XX and XX Units have received words of praise from the XX Unit commander.

Superior Private Murata who was responsible for the supply of various parts of air arms at a certain district on the Burma front, in view of the difficulty in maintaining an ample supply of the needed materials, set about the rejuvenation of spark-plugs, which was no easy task for him. He was often obliged to go without sleep and meals.

After many days of painstaking efforts, Superior Private Murata finally succeeded in manufacturing a simple rejuvenator for spark-plugs by means of scrapped materials. With the rejuvenator of his own device, Superior Private Murata mended as many as 120 spark plugs day after day, and the results obtained were as satisfactory as those usually achieved by professional repairers. Thus, by the strenuous efforts of one Superior Private, the unit to which he belonged, was able to overcome the difficulty accompanying the supply of spark-plugs, which eventually proved a great contribution to the strategic success of the Imperial Japanese troops detailed for heavy duties in the district concerned. The conduct of Superior Private Murata, by active spirit of inquiry and enterprise, overcame the great difficulty lying in the path of a maintenance service man.

Meanwhile, the XX Unit has achieved many successes by way of

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Danger Pointed Out Of Foe Plans to Tap Arabian Oil Wealth

Special

LISBON, February 25.—The New York Times made a biting editorial comment today on the projected plans for the United States to tap the oil resources of Saudi Arabia and for Britain to exploit those of Iran and Iraq, according to a New York dispatch. The paper observed, "The situation which is thus created is a challenge to British and American statesmanship." The Times added, "Are dollar diplomacy and economic imperialism to prevail? Or are the principles of the Atlantic Charter to be invoked and some international arrangement made which will insure the eastern oil resources for the benefit of the world? A purely imperialistic or dollar diplomacy formula contains within itself the seed of economic dissension and of another war."

CARDINAL MAGLIONE DENIES FOE CHARGE

Vatican State Secretary Refutes Presence of Germans at Monte Cassino Monastery

Special to the Nippon Times

BERNE, February 25.—Cardinal Luigi Maglione, Secretary of State of the Holy See, in a statement made on February 18 denied that the Monte Cassino Monastery had sheltered any German troops when the Anglo-American airmen so wantonly bombed the historic edifice.

Not only the Vatican but Catholics the world over are expressing horror and indignation over the senseless and brutal aerial bombardment of the Monte Cassino Monastery.

Cardinal Maglion on behalf of the Holy See, made a statement on February 18 as follows:

"We have heard the report of the abbot of the Monte Cassino Monastery who was on the scene immediately before the Anglo-American airmen began bombing the ancient structure. The abbot reported that there was not a single German soldier there at the time.

"This fact had already been published in the papers. In fact, the German military authorities had guaranteed not to use the monastery for military purposes. We had been feeling quite reassured by that guarantee. We were, therefore, filled with horror to learn that the Anglo-American airmen had reduced the historic monument to ruins.

"On the other hand, the Anglo-American authorities are apparently circulating the propaganda that since German troops are stationed even at His Holiness the Pope's detached palace at Castel Gandolfo, it was only natural that the place should be subjected to attack. This allegation that we have allowed the Germans to be stationed there is entirely false, The Holy See, therefore, has instructed its envoys to London and Washington to lodge protests with the respective Governments to which they are accredited."

Vice-Governors Meeting

The Home Ministry has arranged a four-day meeting of prefectural vice-governors to be held beginning Monday with the aim to execute a general strengthening of the wartime regional administrative structure for the successful prosecution of the governmental policy.

LONDON IS HIT HARD BY RAIDS OF LUFTWAFFE

British Capital Said in Far Worse Condition Than in Winter of 1941

DESTRUCTION IS ADMITTED

News Chronicle Avers Congestion in Underground Shelters Is Terrific

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—The situation of London at present under the retaliatory air raids of the Luftwaffe is far worse than it was in the winter of 1941, according to comments emanating from London.

The British Government is exercising strict censorship over news concerning the air raids being conducted by the German air force, but from the fact that King George VI accompanied by the Queen this afternoon inspected the districts hit by the powerful German bombs, in the wake of Prime Minister Churchill's visits, the damage must have been comparable to that suffered under the mammoth air raid conducted by the Luftwaffe on September 6, 1940.

Travellers arriving here from London admitted that the ravages were terrific. They said:

"It was a real terror raid. It wasn't a simple affair of this or that district having been damaged. Everywhere the concussions of the exploding bombs were felt and there was no place in London which seemed reasonably safe. Under the January air raid London residents said that it was about the same as a few years ago but this time they are complaining that the situation is much worse."

The London press admitted the destructive force of the German air attacks. The News Chronicle reports:

"Thousands of citizens have again scurried to underground shelters and scenes similar to those witnessed in the winter of 1941 are being enacted. Moreover, the situation now is much worse than it was then. Walls have been torn out and houses denuded of furniture. Children are sleeping on bare floors covered only with newspapers and thin blankets. The congestion in the tube is frightful and police are using rough methods to keep order.

"It was not only the city of London that was hit. The Greenwich district was severely ravaged. The astronomical observatory, the Naval Staff College and other monuments were wrecked. Munition plants in the Greenwich area burst into flames after receiving the full blast of numerous high explosive and incendiary bombs. The arsenal at Chatham also was severely damaged due to fire.

"In the heart of London, the Bank of England, the Central Post Office and other structures were demolished. Thousands are now homeless in the city of London."

A special correspondent of the News Chronicle said that at the Piccadilly Circus and other underground stations in central London men were ordered to leave in order to make room for women and children. At the Holburn station the entrances were blocked by hundreds of people who fought to gain admission to the shelter. A number of air raid wardens complained bitterly to the News Chronicle correspondent that they did not get the slightest assistance

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Here for War Effort

Hwang Fu-chun, Agricultural Development Minister of Manchoukuo (center), as he enthusiastically talked on Saturday at the Imperial Hotel during a press interview of the strong determination of the Manchoukuo people to increase their country's production of foodstuffs as their contribution in the prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia to successful consummation.

MINISTER STRESSES MANCHOUKUO'S ROLE

Country Making All-Out Efforts To Increase Food Output, Says Hwang Fu-Chun

Manchoukuo's firm determination to exert further efforts for increased production of agricultural products thereby to fulfill her mission as the supply base for the War of Greater East Asia was voiced by Hwang Fu-chun, Agricultural Development Minister of Manchoukuo, in a press interview held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Imperial Hotel where he established his headquarters during his stay in Tokyo.

Mr. Hwang declared that his present visit to Japan was primarily for conveying to the Japanese Government quarters the resolve of the Manchoukuo people to concentrate their total energy on the increased production of foodstuffs as well as for discussing with the Japanese circles the ways and means to bolster the Asia Development movement in his capacity as the head of the Manchoukuo Goodwill Mission commemorating the 12th anniversary of the founding of the Empire.

Successful Harvest

"Since last spring," said Minister Hwang. "Manchoukuo has left nothing undone to increase her agricultural production. Thanks to the favorable weather conditions and also by virtue of the concerted efforts made by the people, last year's harvest proved a great success and the delivery of the products has been and is still going on continuously."

Mr. Hwang reminded the press of the fact that his party included three provincial Governors who had made great contributions to the production and delivery of foodstuffs.

When asked to explain the grand-scale reclamation project which will be undertaken from the current year, Minister Hwang declared that the scheme will be given special priority by the Manchoukuo Government as one of the most important undertakings of the country. He said that although the plan will be carried out primarily by the General Development Bureau of the Agricultural Development Department, the whole Government will not begrudge offering cooperation in the realization of the program.

"The Department of People's Welfare," Minister Hwang explained, "has already started assembling workers as required for carrying out the project while necessary materials and tools are expected to be provided by Japan shortly. Furthermore, the set-up of the Land Development Company which is in charge of the undertaking has been

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SOLONS FULLY BACK GOVERNMENT STEPS

Lower House Members Exchange Views on War—Speaker Okada Exhorts People

The House of Representatives called a meeting of representative members at 10 a.m. Saturday and exchanged views on the attitude to be taken by the Lower House in the current war situation. It was unanimously agreed that the House, as the people's representative, should voice the resolve to give full support to the Government in the measures it has instituted to cope with the decisive stage of the war situation.

Following the meeting, Speaker Tadahiko Okada issued the following exhortation to the people:

"With a view to bolstering the domestic structure, the Government has, with courage and determination, carried out thoroughgoing measures, such as the changes of three Cabinet Ministers and the coordination of military and naval administration and command.

"We the 100,000,000 people should brace ourselves up and make even greater devotion to the cause of the State.

"By giving approval to the war expenditure budget and the various legislative bills, the House of Representatives has offered wholehearted cooperation to the Government It is now out to unify the various national movements.

"Needless to say, those who are charged with the responsibility of guiding the people should always take care to set fine examples to them. It behooves the Government to give an ample outlet to the people's zeal to serve the country. The people, on their part, instead of merely following Government leadership, should make positive efforts for the consummation of the sacred campaign."

LEND-LEASE ACT REVISED

Supplies to Britain Cut Down Due To War Production Conditions

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—The Lend-Lease supplies to Britain, which have been under serious discussion lately between the United States and Britain, have been drastically revised due to the changes in the war production conditions in both countries, it is reported from New York.

Supplies for exports, for instance, have been markedly cut and export of manufacturing machinery is almost nil. Also, postwar supplies are totally absent from the list.

Marshalls Action Inspires Tokyo Women To Renew Pledge to Smash Foe at Rally

Pledging afresh to annihilate the Anglo-American foe upon receipt of the news of the gallant death of the 6,500 heroes at Kuezyerin and Ruot Islands in the Marshall Group, a grand women's rally was held Saturday noon at the Hibiya Public Hall under the joint sponsorship of the Dai Nippon Women's Association, the Japan-Burmese Buddhist Society and the Tokyo branch of the Dai Nippon Women's Association. The function was attended by more than 2,000 women, according to Domei.

The meeting was opened with addresses by Mrs. Suzuko Inoue, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Japan-Burmese Buddhist Society and by Mrs. Kiyo Hayashi, trustee of the Dai Nippon Women's Association. After the prayer for victory was offered, Burmese Ambassador Dr. Thein Maung delivered an address and Sachio Togawa, a member of the Navy Press Corps made a report of the war situation in the Marshalls area.

After the meeting was over, many of the attendants proceeded to the Plaza in front of the Imperial Palace. On the same morning as early as 8 a.m. the Plaza in front of the Imperial Palace was crowded with people representing all walks of life. There, they reverently paid tribute to the gallant death of the heroes of Kuezyerin and Ruot Islands and doubled their determination to exert their utmost toward the war effort.

U.S. IMPOTENCY IN PACIFIC AREA SEEN BY PAPER

Ankara Journal Sees Foe Confession of Impossibility to Attack Japan

POINTS OUT TOUGH PATH

Sees MacArthur's Realization Of True Mettle of Japanese In Two Years of War

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, February 25.—Wide repercussions have been aroused in European and Near East countries by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's recent confession that it is impossible to attack Japan except from the Chinese continent and General Douglas MacArthur's admission on February 17 that naval and air strengths alone are inadequate to defeat Japan.

Under the heading, "Attack on Japan Impossible," an influential journal in Ankara makes the following observations, according to reports received here:

"The United States under cover of her navy and air force is seeking to capture the Solomons and the Marshalls, but the fact is that it has taken America as long as three or four months to capture each of these tiny islands. Besides, there lie ahead of America's path such areas as Java and Sumatra which are each large enough to make a country. The defense of these sizable territories under Japanese occupation is being soldified with time.

"Even if the United States should succeed in occupying these huge areas, she would still have to reckon with the fact that, in order to attack the Japanese mainland, she would have to transport an army force several million strong over an expanse of 10,000 kilometers. What amount of preparations and sacrifices would be entailed by such a venture is more than obvious.

"Even after succeeding in such a hazardous enterprise, America would still be faced with another—the most formidable—factor, namely the stalwart, efficient and death-defying Japanese people, every one of whom would fight to the last man. Who does not know how difficult it would be to defeat such a people?

"We can only come to the conclusion that MacArthur's statement is his realization, from his two years' of war against Japan, of the true mettle of the Japanese Forces. At the same time, it is his true appraisal of the future of the war situation in the Pacific."

Rites Held for Naval Hero

Funeral services for the late Paymaster Lieutenant-Commander Ryoichi Ishiwata, who had valiantly given his life in the Southern waters, were solemnized at the Aoyama Funeral Hall at 1 p.m. on Friday. The function was attended by his father Finance Minister Sotaro Ishiwata and close relatives.

Filipinos Get New Posts

Special

MANILA, February 24.—Filling more vacancies in the reorganized Government, President Jose P. Laurel this morning named Enrique Altavas as Director of the Bureau of Property Registration, and Roberto Misa as Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

Their Majesties Send Imperial Messengers To Otowa Mansion

On learning of the death in action of Lieutenant-Commander Marquis Masahiko Otowa, Their Majesties the Emperor, the Empress and the Empress Dowager were gracious enough to dispatch Imperial Messengers to the Otowa mansion Saturday morning. Chamberlain Yoshihiro Tokugawa as the Messenger of His Imperial Majesty called at the Otowa mansion at 11 a.m., followed by Secretary Nagabumi Okabe who arrived at 11:15 a.m. as the Messenger of Her Majesty the Empress. Secretary Kiyoshi Nishimura as the Messenger of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager followed at 11:30 a.m.

LAUREL ACTS TO UP FOODSTUFF OUTPUT

Philippine President Mobilizes Manpower for Purpose Under Emergency Powers Act

Domei

MANILA, February 25.—Availing himself of the powers invested in him by the recently approved "Emergency Powers Act," President Jose P. Laurel yesterday decreed the mobilization of Philippine manpower to step up food production.

The President's initial action under the Emergency Powers Act, which was passed on February 22, is considered most significant as it is a reflection of the government's unswerving determination to secure self-sufficiency in foodstuffs for the Philippines, thus stabilizing the lives of Filipinos in time of emergency.

The Government's earnest campaign for increased food production has already borne fruit as can be seen from reports from the provinces.

Late dispatches from San Pablo, Laguna Province, revealed that 2,000,000 kilograms of cassava as well as 3,000,000 kilograms of other root crops will be harvested in April.

Other reports from San Pablo disclosed that short season crops planted by public school students will be harvested shortly. It is said that with the advent of the dry season, students are preparing lots for dry season crops.

From Balayan, Batangas Province, come reports that the cotton harvest has been in full swing since 10 days ago, while the refining of sugar has also been started.

Farmers in Aringay, La Union Province, are busy planting the second rice crop, and it is understood that new irrigation facilities are proving a tremendous help in the increased food production campaign.

It is reported from Pampanga Province that at least several thousands have returned to that province from Manila and other overcrowded cities, and will shortly swing their weight into the food production drive. Similar reports have been received from other provinces.

With Filipinos eagerly volunteering in the increase foodstuffs campaign, the Government is doing its share by distributing seedlings and cuttings and also dispatching experts to teach the planters the newest methods of crop raising.

Under the provisions of the Labor Service Act decreed by President Laurel yesterday all able-bodied Filipinos, both men and women between the ages of 16 and 60 years

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British and U.S. Journals Laud Gallantry Of Nippon Forces at Kuezyerin, Ruot Isles

By Arrangement with the Asahi

STOCKHOLM, February 24.—Amazed by the dauntless spirit of the Japanese officers and men in the face of death, the anti-Axis press is unanimous in praising the Japanese defenders of Kuezyerin and Ruot Islands, who went down fighting to the last moment, according to information reaching here.

The anti-Axis camp is using the occupation effected on a corner of the Marshall group for all it is worth in its blatant propaganda warfare, calling it a great success in its Central Pacific counter-offensive.

The Illustrated London News says:

"The Japanese were subjected to unprecedented bombing and shelling by land, sea and air, but they continued to fight undismayed. By day they fired into American lines and by night they stole within American lines. Sometimes they would deliberately allow American scouts to penetrate their outposts and then would shoot them down. Owing to the stiff resistance of the Japanese, the Americans were compelled again and again to press close to their pill boxes."

The American weekly magazine, Time, comments:

"The Japanese, driven to the last ditch, showed their traditional Yamato Damashii and fought valiantly against the big guns, swift planes and huge warships of the Americans."

The article uses the term Yamato Damashii in the Japanese original.

32 FOE PLANES ARE DESTROYED IN S.W. PACIFIC

Our Units Frustrate Enemy Attempts to Raid Rabaul On Feb. 21, 22, 23, 24

MILLE ATTACK REPULSED

Raiders Flee in Confusion After One Is Downed; Assault on Keaukwa Proves Abortive

Special to the Nippon Times

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—Imperial Japanese Forces in the South Pacific area again dealt the enemy heavy blows during the early part of this week shooting down 11 planes and damaging seven others.

Frustrating a raid of 139 enemy planes, consisting of 70 TBF's, 19 B-24's and 50 fighters that attempted to attack Rabaul on New Britain Island in two waves on the morning of February 21, the Japanese Units stationed there shot down six TBF's and damaged two TBF's and two B-24's after engaging in a furious fight. All the other invaders were repulsed. No damages was done to the Japanese side.

Again on the morning of February 22, a combined formation of 187 enemy bombers and fighters, including 71 TBF's, 83 fighters, 12 B-25's and 21 B-24's, tried to attack thrice. Promptly responding with anti-aircraft gunfire, the Units of the Japanese Forces shot down four TBF's and wrecked three TBF's, repelling the rest of the raiders.

On February 23 a formation of 54 enemy planes, consisting of 19 B-24's and 35 fighters, came over Rabaul in a daylight attack. Our Units garrisoned there immediately counter-attacked them, shooting down a P-38 and beating off all the others.

In several waves a total of 186 enemy planes, consisting of 30 B-24's, 15 F4U's 60 TBF's, 35 B-24's, 40 fighters and six P-38's, attempted to attack our position at Rabaul on February 24. The Japanese Units gave a fierce battle, the outcome of which has not yet been ascertained.

Two Raiders Bagged
Special to the Nippon Times

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—The Japanese Units stationed on Buka Island shot down two F4U's out of ten enemy aircraft, comprising nine F4U's and a large-sized machine that came attacking the island in several waves on the morning of February 23. No damage on the Japanese side was reported.

Two Foe Planes Downed
Special to the Nippon Times

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—Eleven enemy fighter planes came attacking our position on the south-eastern fringe of Bougainville Island on the morning of February 24. The enemy invaders attempted low level bombing. The Japanese Units promptly shot down two fighters in a furious engagement and repulsed all the others. The Japanese side sustained no damage.

Mille Raiders Frustrated
Special to the Nippon Times

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—A formation of 10 odd enemy small planes attempted a raid on Mille Island in the Marshalls Group on the morning of February 23. The Japanese Units stationed there shot down one of the raiders which fled in confusion. No damage was done to our side.

Enemy Plane Downed
Special to the Nippon Times

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—Imperial Japanese Units garrisoned at Keaukwa on New Guinea Island shot down an enemy plane on the morning of February 22 when a total of seven enemy airplanes of unidentified category came attacking our position. The damage on our side was negligible.

All Raiders Repelled
Special to the Nippon Times

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—On the afternoon of February 24 a total of 12 enemy B-25 bombers attempted to raid Taroa Island in Maloelap lagoon in the Marshall Islands. Quick-

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WARTIME MEASURES EFFECTED BY F.I.C.

All Necessary Precautions Regarding Foodstuffs, Air Raids and Clothing Taken

Domei

SAIGON, February 24.—In line with the wartime Government policy, French Indo-China has greatly stabilized the people's livelihood by setting up the Foodstuffs Committee and also by controlling the distribution of foodstuffs. Furthermore, with the increased production of cotton and the development of industrial activities, further progress has been achieved in the economic field.

In anticipation of enemy raids, southern French Indo-China has strengthened its wartime structure by transferring a large number of residents in Saigon and Cholon to rural districts. Along with the dispersion of the population in the crowded cities, air raid defense facilities have been improved and light control regulations are being strictly observed.

With a view to facilitating the transportation of daily necessities, the carriage of non-essential materials has been greatly limited.

In order to facilitate distribution of food, the Foodstuff Committee was inaugurated at the beginning of January by liquidating minor bureaus such as the Rice and Corn Bureau, the Unhulled Rice and the Transportation Bureaus.

The simplification of Government organs has benefitted Japan in that negotiations between Japan and French Indo-China in the future concerning shipments of food to the former will be made much easier.

With the establishment of other Government organs, matters regarding the production of rice and corn as well as their distribution have been placed under the direct control of the government. As to the shipments of rice and other foodstuffs to Japan, business matters are to be handled by the newly-established export Liaison Bureau which will maintain close contact with the Rice and Corn Bureau in Cholon.

Particularly noticeable is the fact that henceforth rice-polishing mills are prohibited to buy unhulled rice directly from merchants and that its transportation can only be conducted with special permission. Thus, rice dealers cannot make enormous profits through illegal transactions. With the raising of the price of rice and transportation and with the building of more granaries, the French Indo-China Government is gradually and steadily solidifying its economic structure.

Cotton Output Increasing

In accordance with the project of increasing the production of cotton and other fibres some of the rubber plantations will be converted into cotton-fields. The area for the cultivation of cotton will not be expanded this year, but through the introduction of better seeds and the selection of suitable land for the purpose, greater output is expected as compared with last year.

Being greatly encouraged by the success of the experimental cultivation of jute, a plan for its production in larger quantities is under way. For this purpose, the necessary seeds are being distributed without charge and the method of obtaining government subsidies has been facilitated. The growing of hemp and kapok is also being encouraged by government authorities. With further efforts being exerted for the production of fibre excellent results are expected in the future.

As to industrial activities, the alcohol industry has been somewhat curtailed due to the scarcity of raw materials with a consequent limitation in the supply of gasoline for automobiles. By utilizing scrap brick and lime, a substitute for cement is being manufactured in quantities. Its quality is said to be equal to that of real cement.

The manufacture of substitutes for blankets and absorbent cotton with kapok is under way and is meeting considerable success. Should kapok be used in manufacturing clothing material also, its importance will further greatly increase.

The Government budget is set at 219,136,115 piastres for this fiscal year showing an approximately increase of 49,000,000 piastres as compared with 171,000,000 piastres for the 1943 fiscal year. The increase in the budget attests to the rise in commodity prices, but on the other hand the fact that the balance between the revenue and expenditure is maintained without the issuance of bonds is worth noting. The revenue is to be mainly raised through customs duties land-tax, trade-tax and profit-tax while the greatest portion of the expenditure is allotted for engineering enterprises.

Ichii Made Administrator

Consul Eisaku Ichii was appointed civil administrator of the Army, it was announced on Saturday.

Minister Stresses Manchoukuo's Role

(Continued from Page 1)

enlarged so as to meet the demands."

The visiting Manchoukuo Minister then referred to the efforts exerted by the farming population of Manchoukuo, tracing the history of the past five years during which Manchoukuo's agricultural administration has seen a revolutionary change. He said that agricultural control was begun in the fifth year of Kotoku or 1938 but that at first the measure failed to produce satisfactory results because the rural population who had been accustomed to free economy found it difficult to adapt themselves to the new policies.

"However," Mr. Hwang continued, "during the ensuing three years when various reforms were effected in the laws pertaining to production control and other measures, the people became accustomed to the new regulations and in 1942, fairly satisfactory results were registered on the production and delivery of products.

Farmers Cooperated

"We promulgated an obligatory system last year for farm products and at the same time provided special allocations of daily necessities for the rural population to insure their welfare. Fully appreciative of the Government's intentions, the farming population made particular efforts which resulted in the outstanding record.

"Such a satisfactory result is ascribable to the revolutionary change that took place in the minds of the Manchoukuo people. The women of our country had never engaged themselves in hard labor until recently but last year, a large portion of the female population helped with the farming in considerable degree by joining in destroying harmful insects."

Minister Hwang, at the end of the interview, emphasized that the productive capacity of his countrymen and their voluntary resolve cultivated during the last several years would no doubt produce still greater amounts of farm products this year.

On Saturday morning, Minister Hwang, accompanied by the members of his suite, proceeded to the Imperial Palace at 9 a.m. and registered his name in the Court Visitors' Book. Then he visited the Meiji Shrine and the Yasukuni Shrine. The party visited Wang Yun-chung, Manchoukuo Ambassador to Japan, at the local Manchoukuo Embassy.

In the afternoon, Mr. Wang called on Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo at the latter's official residence at 1:30 p.m. He then visited the Ministries of War, the Navy and Greater East Asiatic Affairs as well as the Foreign Office.

P.I. WOMEN URGED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MRS. GANDHI

She Died a Martyr to Humanity's Faith in Liberty, Says La Vanguardia Editor

Domei

MANILA, February 25.—Pedro Annario, Editor of the Spanish daily, La Vanguardia, writing in this afternoon's issue said, "Indian nationalism will surely dedicate a monument to Mrs. Gandhi sculptured in bronze or marble resplendant in the skies of Oriental Asia and liberated India."

He added, "Mrs. Gandhi reminds us of many East Asiatic women who embody the most sublime spirit of sacrifice in this war or of Vera Figuer, of which Anatole France wrote, who abandoned the comforts of home life in order to offer herself whole-heartedly in the struggle against tyranny."

"Another Indian poetess, Mrs. Serowidin Naidu, a faithful follower and inseparable friend of Mrs. Gandhi was also condemned to prison for defying British despotism." Mr. Anpario continued.

"Mrs. Naidu was the inspiration of the poem published weekly in Europe entitled 'Bengal Weavers' in which she expressed in all intensity the soul of India which is symbolized by the manufacture of 'khadder,' India's national fiber, in order to free the masses from exploitation and British imperialism," he continued.

In concluding he said, "I urge Filipino women to pay humble tribute to Mrs. Gandhi who died a martyr to humanity's faith in liberty."

Planting More Trees

Domei

HSINKING, February 25.—A "Plant More Trees" Campaign is scheduled to be held throughout the nation for one week centering around the Arbor Festival, which falls on April 20, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and the Concordia Society. Another campaign for the cultivation of young trees is expected to be held in mid-June.

CHURCHILL'S SPEECH ANNOYS U.S. PRESS

Even Pro-British Journals Say It Was Disappointing In Its Vagueness

Special

ZURICH, February. 24.—British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's speech to the Commons on Tuesday has aroused criticism among the American newspapers, particularly with regard to his review on the international political situation, according to dispatches received here. The New York Times, which is regarded as particularly friendly to Britain, declared, "It is perhaps disappointing that Churchill can report no more on the political situation than that no ground had been lost since the Moscow and Teheran conferences."

The Scripps Howard paper, New York World Telegram, bluntly stated that on anti-Axis political and diplomatic plans. Churchill was "almost as evasive as Roosevelt, who deals only in generalities and little of those." The Telegram conceded that a specification of definite war aims now might cause disunity at home and among the "united nations" but that "after all such allowances had been made however, there still remain many reasons why the Big Three. . . the Soviet Union, Britain, and the United States . . . in consultation with their smaller allies should state definite war aims in the near future."

The New York Sun said that Churchill's account of the Teheran conference was clearer than any other which had been published "though somewhat disappointing in respect to details." The New York Times' well-known commentator, Mrs. Anne O'hara McCormick, said that "the brush is not so sure and the colors not so clear" when Churchill discusses the political future. The anti-Roosevelt Republican paper, New York Herald Tribune, however, seized Churchill's speech as an opportunity to criticize Roosevelt's foreign policy. The paper described Churchill's political review as "illuminating" adding, "Listening to the British Prime Minister one can only regret that there is no similarity in the clear concise voice speaking from Washington, that mists, vagueness, secrecy and elusive manipulation still coil so heavily around the White House."

ENEMY PLANES FLY OVER SWITZERLAND

Two Violations Occur in One Night

Special

ZURICH, February 25.—Swiss territory was again violated by foreign planes between last night and this morning, the Swiss Government officially announced today, according to a report from Berne. Two violations of the frontier occured on Thursday night, one at 9:30 p.m. in the region of Saint Elegier and the other at 9:42 p.m. over the canton of Schaffhausen. These violations caused alarms to be sounded in western, northwestern and eastern Switzerland. Thirteen minutes after midnight another frontier violation occurred at Saint Elegier in the direction of Berne, Lucerne and Frauenfeld. The planes, which were apparently anti-Axis, left Swiss territory 51 minutes after midnight near Ermatingen, the report said.

JUNIOR KALIBAPI PLANNING BIG RALLY TO SHOW UNITY

Energy, Sincerity, Capability Of Young Members Lauded By Governor Molina

Domei

MANILA, February 25.—Several thousand youthful members of the Junior Kalibapi will hold a mass rally early next month at the Metropolitan Theater to demonstrate the united will of Filipino youths to cooperate in the task of building up the nation.

It is understood that Acting Director-General of the Kalibapi, Camilio Osias, will be principal speaker.

At present there are more than 5,000 active members of the Junior Kalibapi in Manila alone.

Meanwhile, it is reported from the provinces that graduates of the Kalibapi Leaders' Institute and Junior Kalibapi Institute are now rendering useful service to various provinces to which they are assigned to aid government policies.

It was revealed from Antipolo, Rizal Province, that Governor Tomas Molina has praised the energy, sincerity and capability of the youthful Kalibapi leaders in helping the administration.

Java Succeeds in Producing Vegetable Dye Every Bit as Good as Chemical Material

Domei

BANDOENG, February 25.—Promising further strides toward the realization of Java's self-sufficiency in clothings, the Bandoeng Textile Research has announced that experiments have been successfully carried out by which dyestuffs, comparing favorably with the hitherto imported chemical dyes, are obtainable from vegetable sources.

It is understood that the new vegetable dyes will be manufactured on a scale sufficient to dye all clothing textiles which are turned out by weaving mills maintained by the "Premier Tojo" Employment Society.

It is said that the new dyes can produce almost all colors of different shades—a feat considered only possible with chemical dyes.

Experiments at the Bandoeng Institute started originally for the purpose of procuring a vegetable dye for khaki.

More than 100 kinds of plants growing in Java were experimented on with the result that a khaki dye, which is as proof against sunshine, washing or perspiration as the chemical dye, was evolved some time ago.

This success was soon followed by the evolution of vegetable dyes for the three primary colors. Experts of the Bandoeng Textile Research Station said that Java, which is noted for batik textiles, has great possibilities for dyestuff manufacture since vegetable materials are inexhaustible.

INDIANS IN KOBE MOURN PASSING OF MRS. GANDHI

Independence League Branch Resolves to Give Every Support to Azad Hind Army

The members of the Kobe branch of the Indian Independence League met Thursday at the Indian Social Society Hall at Isogami-dori, Kobe, to mourn the death of Mrs. Gandhi, which occurred recently in a prison at Poona, and to offer prayers for the eternal peace of her departed soul.

Mr. G. D. Vaswani, the Secretary, gave a brief sketch of the life of the deceased, stressing her devotion to her distinguished husband and to the good of her country. He also pointed out how she has been a beacon and the source of inspiration to Indian womanhood.

The assembly then adopted the following resolution:—

"The Indians assembled here today deeply mourn the death of Mrs. Gandhi in Poona prison and pray for the eternal peace of her departed soul.

"Further, it is resolved that this meeting condemn the high-handedness and brutality of the British Government toward the Indian patriots and this sad death of Mrs. Gandhi has revealed once again the moral degradation of the British Government in its true colors. To avenge the death of Mrs. Gandhi we Indians reaffirm our unyielding determination to give all our support in men and material to our Azad Hind Government to annihilate the foe, and pray God will speed the day, when our Azad Hind Fauj (Free Indian Army) shall hold its victory parade inside the red fortress at New Delhi."

INDIANS IN TAIPING VOICE OPTIMISM IN WAR VICTORY

Head of Independence League Chapter Sees Hard Fight Before Freedom Attained

Domei

TAIPING, February 25.—"We have every reason to be optimistic for our ultimate victory, but we must realize that the path to freedom and victory is not strewn with roses. We will have to wade through fire and blood and will have to make great sacrifices," said K. Ramakrishnan, Chairman of the Taiping Chapter of the Indian Independence League, at a meeting here to commemorate the Azad Hind Day.

Asserting that the sweeping victories scored by the Japanese in the current war have completely changed the direction of India's fight for freedom, Mr. Ramakrishnan declared, "The national movement based on a peaceful non-violent principle has yielded to an armed campaign and the Indian National Army in close collaboration with the Japanese Forces is now advancing toward India's frontier."

Before the meeting was dispersed, the gathering observed a minute's prayer in memory of the brave men and officers who have given up their lives in the Arakan campaign.

Paasikivi Denies Talks

Special

STOCKHOLM, February 24.—The Helsinki correspondent of the Swedish paper Tidningen said that former Finnish Prime Minister Juhu K. Paasikivi, who returned to Helsinki yesterday, asserted that he never saw Soviet Minister to Sweden Kollontay during his Stockholm visit. The correspondent quoted Mr. Paasikivi as saying that he did not intend to return to Stockholm this year.

Celebes Fishery Active

Domei

MENADO, February 24.—The XX Fishery Company in North Celebes has decided to launch upon a large-scale enterprise with the arrival of XX number of superior boats for the purpose. Already this Company has been conducting vigorous fishery activities and is sufficiently meeting the demand of the Japanese Forces here. It is also shipping surplus products, particularly bonito and tuna fish to Japan Proper and Taiwan.

ALIENS RESIDING IN P.I. AFFECTED BY NEW LAW

Cannot Own Private Non-Agricultural Lands; To Intern Lawless Elements

Domei

MANILA, February 25.—President Jose P. Laurel today signed two bills affecting aliens residing in the Philippines.

The first bill prohibits aliens from acquiring private non-agricultural lands, buildings or lease-hold rights thereon, unless authorized by the Chief Executive.

The second bill provides for the internment of aliens, who commit acts inimical to peace, security and interest of the Republic of the Philippines.

In addition, the President signed a bill affecting the lease of forest lands for special purposes as well as affecting the profession of the notary public.

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FARREL TAKES OVER WHILE RAMIREZ ILL

Temporary President Not Sworn In

Special

LISBON, February 25.—A dispatch from Buenos Aires said that Vice-President Edelmiro Farrel assumed full presidential authority in Argentina today. The report said the he would hold the post only temporarily while President General Pedro Ramirez recovers from his illness. It was said that Farrel was not sworn in as president since Ramirez merely delegated presidential powers to Farrel temporarily.

The dispatch said that Colonel Gorio Tauber, newly appointed secretary to the presidency, commenting on the recent developments, said that "nothing happened" and that it merely was a delegation of power.

Laurel Acts to Up Foodstuff Output

(Continued from Page 1)

of age, unless otherwise exempt, must render gratuitous service when called upon for not more than one day of each week at tasks which may be assigned them in connection with the procurement and production of food crops and also to man essential services of the Republic.

A specific provision made to forestall wasteful mobilization and unnecessary labor is in the clause which states, "Only such a number of inhabitants shall be called as will be adequate for the work to be done."

Reconstruction Explained

Domei

MANILA, February 25.—Stressing the all-out efforts of the government officials to look after the welfare of the Filipino farmers, Hilarion Silayan, Director of Plant Industry, in a radio speech, declared that the administration is not unmindful of the services being rendered by the nation's agricultural population toward the attainment of economic self-sufficiency of the independent Philippines. He said, "The fundamental measures for rural reconstruction being carried out by the government includes first, a provision for the extension of credit to small farmers, second, the education of farmers and their organization into cooperatives, third, the conversion of farms into wholesome places of community life provided with the modern conveniences of life, fourth, provisions for the ample production and rehabilitation of farmers affected by natural causes."

He added, "Our duty is clear; the farmer must be directed, protected, and encouraged for their contribution to the new Philippines."

U.S. REVEALS CASUALTIES

Patterson Claims 157,866 Lost From War Outbreak to February

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—A total of 157,866 casualties suffered by the American forces since the beginning of the war till February 7 was announced today by Robert P. Patterson, U. S. Undersecretary of War, in another piece-meal revelation, according to a Washington dispatch.

Army: Killed, 19,499; injured, 45,545; missing, 26,339; taken prisoners, 26,745; total 118,128.

Navy, Marine Corps, and Coastal Defense Corps: Killed, 16,506; injured, 9,323; missing, 9,491; taken prisoners, 4,419; total 39,738.

JAPANESE IN INDO-CHINA DONATE TO RELIEF FUNDS

Domei

HANOI, February 25.—Japanese residents in southern French Indo-China have remitted 3,040 piastres as relief funds for victims of the indiscriminate bombings carried out by the United States air force based in China.

It was further revealed that students of the Japanese Language School attached to the South Seas Academy as well as the Japanese Language School supervised by the French Indo-China Co-Prosperity Association in Saigon have also remitted relief funds amounting to 321 piastres 50 centimes through the Japanese Ambassadorial Office.

It is recalled that the United States air force carried out ruthless bombings on Hanoi on December 10 and December 12 last year, causing injuries to Japanese as well as Annamese residents.

Nippon Press Directors

Hisao Morita, former director-in-chief of the Manchoukuo News Agency, and Shigeo Tsukamura, chief of the general affairs board of the Nippon Press Association, were newly appointed as directors of the Nippon Press Association on Friday by President Tokichi Tanaka with the permission of the competent Minister.

CHIANG BANDITS HIT BY MONGOLIAN UNIT

Nippon Commander on Spot Lauds Cavalry

Domei

KALGAN, February 25.—With a strong determination to annihilate Chungking bandit troops wandering in the Changpi-hsien and Changtu-hsien districts, the Cavalry Unit of the Mongolian Army has attacked them many times, routing them at every turn during an approximate period of one month since the commencement of action on December 8 last year.

In the fighting in the southwestern part of the walled town of Shaoyi on January 5, the Mongolians suddenly attacked about 300 of the bandit troops and gave chase to the fleeing enemy, causing the latter to abandon 218 dead. They also took 10 prisoners, 98 army horses, and considerable war trophies.

The Japanese Commander of X X Unit on the spot sent a letter of commendation to the aforementioned Cavalry Unit.

HOTSPRING SANATORIUM COMPLETED IN CELEBES

Supervised by Nippon Authorities at Parigi; Building Is Also Constructed

Domei

MENADO, February 25.—A hot spring sanatorium for local inhabitants of the Parigi district in Central Celebes was recently completed under the supervision of Japanese authorities.

The plans for the construction of hotsprings were evolved during the inspection trip by the authorities when a stream of warm water was found about 15 kilometers southeast of the Parigi village.

Upon discovering a hotspring at the bed of a river, the authorities immediately laid plans for the establishment of a sanatorium and with the whole-hearted cooperation of native inhabitants, a spacious 300 square-foot building was constructed.

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GOTO STRENGTHENS MARITIME SYSTEM

Stresses Unity With Principal Areas in Prefectures; Tajima, Kawai Named to Posts

Accompanying changes in the personnel of the Transportation and Communications Ministry in accordance with the marine transportation renovation and strengthening policy, Transportation and Communications Minister Keita Goto on Saturday adopted various measures including the adoption of a system for regional administrative council chairmen to take concurrent posts of regional marine transportation bureau directors.

Explaining the transit strengthening measure, the Transportation and Communications Ministry issued the following statement of the Minister in the form of an informal talk to the press:

"To effect an epochal strengthening of the marine transportation capacity of the nation is one of the most urgent and vital questions facing us in the present stringent stage of the war. The importance of shipping is as great as that of aircraft, if not greater.

"Accordingly, the administrative powers of the General Bureau of Marine Transportation of the Transportation and Communications Ministry have been further strengthened. Also with a view to increasing shipping and navigation efficiency, it has been decided to bring shipping management and its supervisory office, the General Bureau of Marine Transportation, closer together through personnel.

"With this purpose in view, we have appointed Masao Tajima, president of the Shipping Operation Association as director of the Marine Transportation Bureau of the General Direction of Marine Transportation, to exercise the functions of that office concurrently with those of president of the Shipping Operation Association.

"In order, further, to expedite shipbuilding planning, Yoshinari Kawai, president of the National Federation of Wooden Shipbuilding Association and head of the shipbuilding department of the General Direction of Marine Transportation, has been appointed director of the Shipping Bureau to hold that office, concurrently with that of president of the National Federation.

"In order to effect the strengthening and renovation of the regional marine transportation administrative structure, all the provincial marine transportation bureau directorships have been conferred upon the metropolitan, urban and rural prefectural governors, who are chairmen of regional administrative councils and a system has been instituted to make all the officials of the Marine Transportation Bureau cooperate with officials of the prefectural governments, so as to assure administrative unity in the principal areas.

"The directors of the various local bureaus of marine transportation are to become assistant directors with the same salaries and official ranks as they enjoyed as directors to aid governors, who are concurrently chairmen of regional administrative councils, with their technical knowledge and experience.

"The new system has been adopted in accordance with the report of administrative inspectors and recommendations of chairmen of regional administrative councils and it coincides with the policies of administrative simplification and strengthening and transfer of central powers to local governments."

Doom Is Sealed Of Trapped Foe In Mayu Sector

(Continued from Page 1)

making good the shortage of service type arms. For instance, it succeeded in manufacturing a high performance receiver by means of materials obtainable at the front. The receiver thus manufactured by the Unit, furthermore, gave rise to the invention of an instrument to on the trail of the radio espionage service men of the enemy.

The XX Unit which also has received words of raise from the XX Unit commander has contributed a great deal to the strategic success of the Imperial Japanese Forces through invention of a device to increase the reliability of air defense battery generators and subtransmitters run by means of direct current transformers for use in cases of main transmitters going out of order.

In addition, the Unit has invented new types of chargers and subtransmitters, which are greatly facilitating the military operations of the Imperial Japanese Forces at the war fronts concerned.

Cultural Lecture for Local Germans

Attentively listening to a lecture and demonstration of the Kabuki music in the above photo are members of the German community in Tokyo at the German Club, Hirakawa-cho on Saturday afternoon. The event was jointly sponsored by the Society of Friends of Eastern Art and the German Club.

ONE AIM AND SPIRIT UNITES SOUTH AREA

Cavalcade of Indonesians, Malais, Chinese, Germans Marching Toward Victory

Joyfully cooperating with the Japanese in various lines of industry such as ship-building and the refining of copra oil, the peoples of Greater East Asia, including Java, Malai, Sumatra, the Philippines and Celebes, evincing the resurrection of their Asiatic consciousness, are now courageously forging ahead in the construction of rejuvenated nations, according to Yomiuri-Hochi.

In Djakarta the native islanders are wielding hammers to good effect in defiance of the scorching sun. The constant sound of hammering attests to the vigorous industrial activities now going on in Djakarta which has been converted into a vital supply base for the Japanese Forces now engaged in important operations in the Pacific.

In Java the heavy industries have shown amazing progress during the two years which have elapsed since the arrival of the Japanese Forces. In pre-war days, due to the Dutch exploitation policy, hardly a single industry was developed in spite of the fact that the island is blessed with limitless natural resources. The heavy industries, in particular, were deliberately left undeveloped except for the one arsenal built by the Dutch just before the outbreak of the current war.

At present thousands of skilled native laborers under the tutelage of the Japanese are engaged in repairing military equipment wrested from the enemy forces as spoils of war, or in the manufacturing of guns and other arms of the latest type.

Spurred by a burning enthusiasm to contribute toward the construction of a new East Asia, the youths of Malai, too, are ardently cooperating with the Japanese. Those who have been trained at the mariners' training institute for months and who are consequently fully qualified, are seen working hard and earnestly on the beach. Some are now undergoing special training to become divers. Though unforeseen dangers and difficulties are in store for them, these hardy Malai youths daily dive into the depths of the sea, their faces beaming with new hope and joy.

Local Residents Cooperate

In Sumatra the total national strength is being exerted for the prosecution of the current war. The newly-organized volunteer corps has been made more efficient through the proper training of its members. The brisk activities of the provincial councils throughout the island attest to the successful participation of the islanders in the field of administration.

Rapid strides have also been taken toward the attainment of self-sufficiency in both foodstuffs and daily necessities. The Indonesians, Chinese, Indians and Germans in Sumatra are cooperating with one another, firmly resolved to discharge their respective duties. Thus, a grand march toward reconstruction can be witnessed throughout this island.

The ship-building industry is progressing most successfully in Celebes. When the keel for a vessel of certain tonnage was laid down for the first time at a dock in Celebes, the natives are reported to have wondered how such a mighty vessel could be built on such a delicate-looking keel. Except for canoes which they were accustomed to make by hollowing out giant tree trunks, they were totally ignorant about the process of building vessels. This task of shipbuilding was first undertaken on this island by five Japanese technicians and native workers.

Though the native islanders who lived in big cities understood the Malai tongue, those who resided in rural districts could speak only their local dialects. Therefore, it was necessary to resort to gestures when speaking to these rural dwellers.

In spite of the fact that some of the workers succumbed to malaria, the undaunted Japanese technicians kept steadfastly on, surmounting innumerable obstacles and hardships. Due to the language handicap, the work did not progress as quickly as had been expected, but when the building of the hull was finally completed, the vessel looked grand and majestic among the clustering canoes.

Keen to Build Ships

Having thus learned the process of building a vessel for the first time in their lives, the islanders who had hitherto been so indifferent to such work, became diligent and industrious. One day last year, the launching ceremony for the first wooden vessel was solemnly observed, attended by many military officers and prominent civilians. On that occasion, as the vessel slipped down the ways and cut through the waters, the islanders who had participated in building it, became so overcome with joy that they danced around, shouting.

Since that first launching, many vessels have been built and launched and still more are now under construction at full speed. The native workers today are cheerfully working at the docks, happily humming popular tunes. It is a picturesque scene, indeed, to see the tanned and sinewy Indonesians energetically swinging hammer under the great cloud banks which hang atop the tall coconut trees.

In the Philippines where the utmost efforts are also being exerted for the attainment of self-sufficiency, the Filipinos have made a complete change in their mode of living.

With the ringing of a bell at five o'clock every morning, the machines of the Copra Refining Company start moving. The quiet of the early morning is broken by the simultaneous start of activities. In rooms where the temperature is always above one hundred degrees, several hundred Filipinos can be seen ardently and assiduously engaged in the task of preparing cooking oil, lard, soap, glycerine, fertilizer, kerosene and fuel oil all from copra.

In pre-war days, copra products were all shipped to America since no means of utilizing them within the country had been contrived. Before the outbreak of the war the total output of copra in the Philippines amounted to 360,000 tons. However, due to the disruption of communication lines and to the shortage of hands, the output decreased for sometime after the commencement of the war but now the copra productivity has been greatly expanded. Greater efforts are now being exerted in increasing the production of copra.

32 Foe Planes Are Destroyed In S.W. Pacific

(Continued from Page 1)

ly intercepting them, the Japanese Forces gallantly routed the invaders. No loss was sustained by our side.

Enemy Beaten Off

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, February 26.—In two waves between 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. yesterday, an aggregate total of about 80 enemy planes, consisting of B-24's, B-25's and B-26's, attempted to attack our position at Wewak on New Guinea Island.

Engaging in a furious combat with anti-aircraft gunfire, the Japanese Units immediately shot down five B-26's two B-24's and one B-25, four of which unconfirmed, and beat off all the others. The loss on the Japanese side was four killed.

London Is Hit Hard by Raids Of Luftwaffe

(Continued from Page 1)

from the competent authorities.

1,340 Airmen Lost

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—The anti-Axis air forces have lost not less than 1,340 airmen during their raids on Germany yesterday and today, it was announced by the Fuehrer's Headquarters today.

94 Raiders Smashed

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—The British lost 35 bombers during their raid on Schweinfurt today while the U.S. 8th air force suffered a loss of 49 bombers and 10 fighters in their raids on Schweinfurt and Gotha on the same day, or a total of 94 planes, it was admitted by the British Air Ministry today, according to a London dispatch.

506 Attackers Blasted

Domei

BERLIN, February 25.—Every anti-Axis terror raid carried out on German territory has been met by furious German defensive action and at least a total of 506 enemy planes have been shot down during the past five days since the British raid on the city of Leipzig on February 20, it was announced by the Fuehrer's Headquarters today.

80 Raiders Downed

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—A total of 80 United States planes were brought down by German air units during the American raid carried out yesterday on western Europe, the Headquarters of the U.S. 8th air force admitted today, according to a London dispatch.

Yanks Bomb Germany

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—Units of the American 8th air force carried out raids on Regrensburg, Stuttgart, and southern Germany today, a London dispatch quoted the announcement made by the headquarters of the American air force.

BRITISH RAID RHODES CITY

Turkish Consulate Is Smashed; Consul, Wife Injured

Domei

BERLIN, February 24.—The city of Rhodes on Rhodes Island in the Aegian Sea became the target of wanton bombing of British raiders at noon on February 18, it was announced by the Fuehrer's Headquarters.

Numerous casualties were reported from among the civilians and the Turkish Consulate was completely destroyed.

The Turkish Consul and his wife were injured and two staff members and one maid were killed, the report added.

LECTURE ON KABUKI HEARD BY GERMANS

Demonstrative Talk on Music Accompanying Plays Given at Club Gathering

A lecture with demonstrations on traditional Kabuki music and sound effects accompanying Kabuki plays was given Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at the German Club in Hirakawa-cho, Tokyo, under the joint sponsorship of the Society of Friends of Eastern Art and the German Club.

The lecturer was Masayoshi Sugino, former lecturer of the arts department of Waseda University, assisted by the musician members of the Kabuki orchestra.

Before the lecture a short opening address was made by Kurt Meissner, president of the German Club.

Mr. Sugino spoke at length on the history of Kabuki music, and demonstrations were given of the eleven branches accompanying various Kabuki dramas.

Demonstrations were given also of the ceremonial music of the Kabuki theater, and the special sounding of the drum, flute and wooden clappers announcing the rise and fall of the curtain and intermissions etc., all a traditional part of Kabuki.

Sound effects made with the drum of the lapping of waves, of a rainstorm, of trickling water, of wind and falling snow, were also demonstrated.

This is the first lecture on Japanese music sponsored by the Society of Friends of Eastern Art former lectures having been on other branches of Japanese culture. Although no definite plans have been made, it is hoped that further lectures on other branches of Japanese music can be given in the near future.

Among the interested audience were several members of the local German Embassy and other prominent German residents.

U.S. Launching Carrier

Domei

LISBON, February 24.—The 26,000-ton United States aircraft carrier Bronington, is scheduled to be launched on February 26 at the New York Shipyard, it is reported from New York. The new carrier is of the Essex class and is capable of carrying several hundred planes. She has a speed of 35 knots. It will be protected by eight 5-inch guns and will carry a crew of 2,000.

Portugal Assembly Reopens

Domei

LISBON, February 25.—The Portuguese Assembly which was adjourned for the past two months was reopened today, it is reported.

U.S. URGED TO CUT PORTUGUESE TIES

Position Delicate, Asserts Acting Secretary

Special

LISBON, February 24.—A Washington dispatch revealed that Representative Harry B. Coffee, Democrat from Nebraska, in a speech today demanded that the United States break relations with Spain. Asked about Coffee's statement, acting Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, at a press conference said that the Spanish situation was a very delicate one and that the department was watching it very closely.

Stettinius said that there was no comment at the moment that would be useful to the correspondents. Asked whether the United States Government was taking any part in the British request to Portugal to cease sending wolfram to Germany, which was disclosed by British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in his speech yesterday, Stettinius declared that the United States had been having discussions with the Portuguese authorities for some time in connection with the limitation of wolfram shipments to Germany. He stated that these talks were continuing and that the British and American views were identical in the matter.

PHILIPPINES TO DISPATCH STUDENTS TO STUDY HERE

25 Being Selected to Undergo Agricultural and Technical Training in Japan

Domei

MANILA, February 25.—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today announced that 25 promising young men, comprising the second batch of Government pensionados (students) to Japan, will be selected shortly.

The pensionados will specialize in technical subjects after undergoing a three-month preparatory training here before leaving for Japan.

Bachelors from 17 to 21 years of age are qualified to take the Government test which will be given to select the pensionados. Subjects to be studied in Japan include agriculture, technical and physical science.

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TOKYO, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1944

The Decisive New Measures

The epochal measures adopted by the Cabinet Friday provide the first impressive demonstration of the vast increase in the fighting strength of Japan resulting from the recent reshuffling of the Cabinet. These measures, comprising a comprehensive 15-point program, will serve more than ever to concentrate the energies of the entire nation on the one supreme task of pushing through to final victory in the present war.

What results may be expected from these measures can be judged by their scope. Thorough mobilization of the labor capacity of students, augmentation of the people's labor service system, tightening of air defense, enforcement of simple living and improvement and adjustment of the system of food supply, more complete utilization of idle lands, increase in the number of goods banned from manufacture as being unessential and stricter regulation of the quality of those whose manufacture is to be continued, suspension of expensive amusements, replenishment of traffic capacity for vital needs, renovation and strengthening of maritime traffic, suspension of planning business of a peace-time or long-term nature for one year, delegation of central administrative business to local administrative organs, prompter execution of judicial business, more positive utilization of existing resources, more thorough enforcement of punishments and rewards and the strengthening of administrative inspection, and reduction in the number of holidays for Government offices—these are measures which will vastly enhance further the efficiency of the nation which is already manifesting unprecedented strength.

It is not only the specific measures themselves, however, but the spirit motivating them which is significant. The spirit which inspires such a comprehensive program as this can only mean that the Japanese nation is fully resolved and determined to the utmost degree to overcome every obstacle and to push through every emergency until the day of final victory. The reorganized Cabinet but reflects this indomitable spirit of the entire nation. In fact the nation is more than determined—it is enthusiastically anxious—to do all these things and far more; and it will do all these things and far more as the need develops.

The readiness with which the Government carried through its recent reorganization, the speed with which the reorganized Government is producing results, and the spirit of the entire nation which inspires all these developments are impelling proofs of the invincible character of Japan.

American Prejudice

The fact that venomous contempt and prejudice lie behind the glittering facades of American "goodwill" and purported aims has again been bared, this time by no less a personage than disgruntled Sumner Welles, former Undersecretary of State. His disclosure of the undue discrimination being practiced by Americans against the Mexican laborers who have been imported to alleviate America's manpower shortage shows the hopelessness of ever expecting the Americans to take a fair attitude toward minority races.

The fact that Mexican workers have been enlisted to fill a dire need in the United States appears to have had absolutely no effect in softening the traditional prejudice of the Americans toward whom they consider an inferior race, despite all their hypocritical protestations of "friendship." Welles himself has revealed that Mexican children are not allowed in some states to attend the same public schools as the Americans, that in extreme cases they are prohibited from entering movie houses, restaurants and hotels, that they are not allowed to live in "white" residential sections. These facts disclose that the treatment—or rather, maltreatment—accorded the Mexicans approximates that given the Negroes, being only slightly above the level of the American treatment of enemy nationals.

American prejudice against all "foreigners" arises from a number of different factors: the self-conceited notion of Anglo-Saxon superiority, ignorance of the habits, customs and culture of others, smug self-satisfaction, ingrained arrogance and the habit of viewing life from the strictly materialistic standpoint. Any race, any person, in fact, who refuses to grovel in servile compliance to their demands, who fails to conform to their self-centered ideas, is the target of suspicion and hatred. But those who have compromised with the Americans for one reason or another are the ones who suffer the most, for there can be no happiness for any minority under the domination of the Americans.

The simple truth is that the Americans will make theatrical overtures of friendship and goodwill only as long as they need the help of the party in question. But once that party has done everything it can for the United States, with no prospects of being able to do more, then the true character of the Americans comes to the surface and the worst kind of discrimination and petty persecution begins. Where, however, the Americans are confident that they can compel any party to comply to their demands by force, even the pretense of friendship is dispensed with—as has happened to the Mexicans in the United States.

From what is happening to the Mexicans in America, it is apparent that very few Americans feel that the Mexicans are doing a service for the United States in supplying much-needed labor. The general idea among Americans appears to be that the Mexicans are to be scorned and reviled for "competing" with American workers, that the Mexicans should feel honored that they have the "privilege" of working as virtual slaves for the Americans and that the Mexicans have no right to ask for better working and living conditions. That is the way the American mind interprets Mexican-American relations.

American prejudice toward their neighbors and the minority races within their borders makes it plain that there is no possibility of justice for the vast majority of the people in this world under any scheme carried out by the Americans. The Americans, like the British, are interested solely in their own welfare, with blind prejudice precluding fair-minded thinking. World-wide peace, mutual prosperity and genuine friendship among all the nations and peoples are possible only when such prejudice as that shown by Americans has been wiped out. Real freedom cannot live where there is discrimination.

And So It Is With Man. . . .

Suppose a boat is crossing a river, and another empty boat is about to collide with it. Even an irritable men would not lose his temper. But supposing there was someone in the second boat. Then the occupant of the first would shout to him keep clear. And if the other did not hear the first time, nor even when called to three times, bad language would inevitably follow. In the first case there was no anger, in the second there was; because in the first case the boat was empty, and in the second it was occupied. And so it is with man. If he could only roam empty through life, who would be able to injure him?—Selections from the Philosophy of Chuang Tzu.

A Year Ago Today

—February 27, 1943—

Peruvian troops crossed the frontier today and entered the territory of Ecuador, thus opening again the Peru-Ecuador frontier conflict. Upon the invasion of the Peruvian forces, the Government of Ecuador submitted a very strong protest to Peru. It is recalled that the frontier problem between Peru and Ecuador was settled in 1941 at the mediation of Argentina and the United States.

* * *

Kweilin, Lingling and two other enemy air bases in Kwangsi and Hunan Provinces were suddenly raided by the Japanese Army Air Forces today. The Japanese Wild Eagles, with the aim of pounding enemy air marauders at their bases, repeatedly raided Kweilin and Liuchow (both in Kwangsi Province) and Lingling and Taohsien (two bases in Hunan Province).

* * *

In order to crush British and Chungking troops in the Northern Burma-India border and along the riparian regions of the Nu Kiang River, the upper reaches of Salween River in Yunnan Province, picked units of the Japanese Forces stationed in Burma are now continuing their swift advance toward the northern Burma-India border regions and the Nu Kiang River coastal region.

* * *

The port of Corinto on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua has been chosen as the first scene of preparations and construction by the United States in its plans for the establishment of several military bases in Nicaragua as part of its frantic program to obtain military bases in Central and South America. Patrol flotillas of the United States navy are already using the port as their base in their vigilance operations of the waters in the vicinity of the Panama Canal.

* * *

The serious shortage in various vital necessities, together with the growing imminence of inflation threatening the United States, the American War Production Board has decided to put the "minimum wartime living" plan into effect.

Japan's Wartime Diplomacy

Joint Declaration in Contrast to Atlantic Charter Aims At Restoration of Former Status

Editor's Note: In his article entitled the "Keynote of Japan's Wartime Diplomacy" published in the February Number of the Keikoku, Minister to Finland Toyoichi Nakamura, while giving a bird's-eye view of the world situation, enunciates the significance of the War of Greater East Asia as well as the keynote of Japan's diplomacy in coping with the present emergency situation. He writes:—

The War of Greater East Asia has entered on its third year. During the seven years since the outbreak of the China Affair, many events of grave importance have occurred in different parts of the world. To give the more notable of these events, in a very short space of time following the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, Japan destroyed the naval power of America, Britain and the Netherlands in East Asia and laid the foundations for the establishment of the Common Prosperity Region of Greater East Asia. In Europe, Germany, our ally, has scored a series of brilliant victories, while the Soviet Union who it appeared at the beginning would be crushed by Germany's mighty arms gradually rallied after the initial hard blow suffered and has now come to assume a vigorous offensive. France who it was at first believed would succeed in arresting the advance of the German forces on the Maginot line for a considerable time at least had an unexpectedly speedy collapse. No less remarkable is the fact that the Badoglio regime in Italy fell an easy prey to crafty machinations on the part of the anti-Axis camp, with the result that the land of Italy was converted into an internecine battlefield. It remains to be seen how far Germany will succeed in checking the Bolshevization of Europe or what amount of success will crown her efforts to create a new order in Europe.

Knotty Problems Present

Meanwhile, the anti-Axis Powers are talking as though their victory were practically assured, but the careful observer will see at once that their mutual relations present many knotty problems which threaten to impair their future co-operation seriously. The interests of Britain and the Soviet Union are irreconcilable in many respects. Britain's increasing dependence on America is causing the latter to assume an increasing air of superiority in her attitude toward the former. In the meantime, the Dominions within the British Empire are steadily developing a tendency to gain a larger measure of independence from their Mother Country. All things considered, it is fairly certain that, no matter how the present war may end, the British Empire will find itself in a very difficult position after the war.

The anti-Axis Powers are trying to cover up their defective military position by adroit propaganda work. Deliberately and erroneously assuming that they have virtually won the war already, they have been publishing plans for the post-bellum management of the world's economic affairs, with a view to winning over small countries now on the Axis side, inveigling neutral countries and preventing secessions from their own camp. In the meantime, America and Britain are leaving no stone unturned in order to humor the Soviet Union whom they are most eager to retain within their camp. They are evidently making big concessions of various kinds to that country for the purpose.

It is important for us to have a firm grasp of the actuality of the situation, instead of allowing ourselves to be misled by the propaganda of the enemy countries, so that we can unfalteringly pursue the course which will lead us to certain victory.

Strengthen Bonds

The keynote of Japan's diplomacy is to strengthen the bonds binding the signatories of the Tripartite Pact together. The graver the war situation, the closer must their relations grow. The history of the collapse of the Badoglio regime in Italy shows that the anti-Axis Powers have always been taking special pains to cause estrangement among the Axis Powers, between Italy and Germany especially, and that, as directed against Italian domestic politics, they have been assiduous in their endeavors to sow discord between the Fascist Party and the military, while at the same time attempting to instil the sense of war weariness into the minds of the Italian people generally. Marshal Pietro Badoglio fell an easy victim to this cunning anti-Axis tactics.

Japan and Germany are absolutely proof against anti-Axis propaganda of this kind, but it is well for us to take due note of the objectives which their propagandists have chiefly in view so that we can take effective measures to defeat their aims.

The main objective of Japanese diplomacy is to establish the Common Prosperity Region of Greater East Asia. The historic Declaration adopted at the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations held in Tokyo in November last year lays down the fundamental rules governing the relations of the countries within the Common Prosperity Region. It is not a mere declaration of principle; it is a declaration of the lines along which action should be started immediately. To sum up the objectives of the Declaration, they are to effect the emancipation of Greater East Asia and secure the independence of East Asiatic peoples, to defend and construct East Asia, to abolish racial discrimination and to promote cultural and economic interchanges on the basis of equality and reciprocity. It is our ideal to create a new order within the Common Prosperity Region of Greater East Asia in accordance with these ethical principles. While we have no objection to the idea of America for the Americans or Europe for the Europeans, we, for our part, cannot tolerate interference from the outside in our claim of East Asia for the East Asiatics. Up to the outbreak of the war, America and Britain have enriched themselves at the expense of East Asia, and they had no justifiable ground whatever for this deed of exploitation. They simply arrogated to themselves the position as exploiters by taking mean advantage of the unawakened state of the East Asiatic peoples. Politically, the Common Prosperity Region of Greater East Asia signifies the principle of Asia for the Asiatics, but, economically or culturally, it does not imply any principle of exclusion or monopoly.

Offers Singular Contrast

The plans so far carried out for the establishment of the Common Prosperity Region of Greater East Asia include the independence of Burma and the Philippines, the participation of the Indonesians in administration, the recognition of the Provisional Government of Free India, the assistance to Thailand in recovering her lost territories and the inauguration of Japan's new China policy. This offers a singular contrast with the Anglo-American Atlantic Charter, the guiding principle of which is to restore the status quo ante, and nothing more. The Cairo Declaration also makes a poor comparison with the Greater East Asia Joint Declaration, for that Declaration asserts, regarding East Asia, that Japan should be relegated to the status of a third-rate country, with all other territories kept as hitherto in a state of servitude to America and Britain. The Cairo Declaration is nothing but a dream which will never come true. If it were justice to restore the old order and refuse to recognize new influences, consistency would demand that America should agree to the reinstatement of the old Ruling Family of Hawaii and that she should retrocede the Philippines to Spain, Texas and California to Mexico. The Declaration of Greater East Asia has caused much repercussion in the anti-Axis camp. According to a Lisbon telegram, American opinion admits that the Declaration was a wise line of policy. It is also held that Japan acted wisely in granting independence to Burma and the Philippines, and it is further reported that the belief obtains that the days of the Anglo-American domination in East Asia are practically at an end.

Of all the problems relative to the firm establishment of the Common Prosperity Region of Greater East Asia, Japan's relationship with China is of special importance, for China is the biggest country within the Common Prosperity Region with a population of over 400,000,000, and is very closely related to this country, politically, economically and culturally. At the time of the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, I was in service at Nanking, and I found various views held by different Chinese at the time. Some were of opinion that Japan would put harder pressure on China for the purpose of rigorous exploitation. Some held that Japan's attitude toward China would be modified as she could obtain supplies from other quarters. Still another body of Chinese opinion maintained that Japan would devote herself to her work of emancipating East Asia, in pursuance of her avowed policy. Subsequent events show that Japan pledged herself to the execution of her new China policy on the occasion of the participation of the National Government in the war on January 9 last year, and in fulfilment of this promise, she has retroceded her exclusive concessions and has taken in hand the abolition of extraterritoriality. By inducing other countries to follow her example and abandon their rights and interests which have hitherto restricted China's sovereignty, Japan has seen to it that the long-cherished national aspirations of the Chinese people are satisfied. All Chinese leaders are naturally grateful to Japan for the sincere attitude she has displayed and are giving Japan every cooperation toward the successful prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia.

JAPANESE WAY OF THINKING

The Etymology of 'Momo'

By SANTARO
Of the Nippon Times Staff

Part II

Examples of "momo" used in the auspicious sense of "hundred" or "very many" in Japanese literature, ancient and recent, are too many to be cited. In Manyoshu alone several hundreds may be counted. It has also found its way into some expressive Makura-kotoba (pillow words), of which the most famous is "Momo-shiki-no" (literally, "hundred-stone-piled or seated," suggestive of high walls or a spacious hall capable of seating "a hundred mats"). This pillow word is invariably followed by the phrase "Oh-miya-bito" (courtiers) or "Oh-miya-dokoro" (the court), or the like, implying "courtiers," or "Government officials," or "great palace," or "Government building." The oft-quoted Manyo verse may be recalled:—

"Momo-shiki-no
"Oh-miya-bito wa
"Itoma areya
"Ume o kazashite
"Koko ni tsudo-heru"

(These great courtiers in their august leisure are assembled here today, each with a plum spray stuck over his shoulders.)

This is not a satire, as it is commonly supposed to be, on the courtiers "encumbered with a superabundance of leisure"; it depicts a high scene of official splendor illustrating the great pride and prosperity of an illustrious reign, symbolized by those great dignitaries in court robes and decorations. Its more famous parody in Shin Kokinshu anthology (published in 1205), ending with the two lines "Sakura kazashite kyo mo asobitsu," may have been a sarcastic reflection on the "leisureliness" of the Oh-miya-bito of the pre-Kamakura period who, as historical necessity dictated, had to make way for the more vigorous rulers of the Kamakura "camp government."

Incorrigible Ancients

There is a quaint Makura-kotoba, occurring more than once in Manyoshu namely, "Momo-tarazu" (literally "short of a hundred") affixed to the word "yaso" (eighty) or "ya" (eight), making such graceful lines as "Momo-tarazu Yaso no chimata ni, etc." (We have had occasion in a previous article to refer to "Yasono chimata"—eighty streets or a busy thoroughfare. This pillow-term is derived, of course, from the great idea that 80 is short of 100. It is one of those quasi-humorous instances of verbal quibbling in which our ancients seemed to take delight; which at times makes us suspect that they must have been an incorrigible race of practical jokers who unconsciously perhaps "pulled the legs" of poor posterity by inventing preposterous phrases. We can imagine their skulls grinning under the green grass at the thought of the endless trouble which some of their impossible Makura-kotoba are causing to conscientious scholars like Azumamaro and Mabuchi.

Or it may prove their eternal curiosity or lust for apt phrases which, if once discovered, they would never let go till they used or abused them to the threadbare. "Momo" was evidently a case in point. They spoke of "momo-tori" (many birds), "momo-chi-dori" (a great flock of small birds), "momo-he-nami" (a thousand waves), "momo-he-yama" (peaks upon peaks), "Momo-fune" a great fleet of ships), "momo-funa-bito" (many fishermen), etc., almost without limit till momo, if it had a soul, might very well cry for help. Little wonder too that momo as peach had nearly been forgotten by most Manyo poets. We may therefore conclude that momo was a term originally imbued with an auspicious meaning of "hundred" or "great number" and that it was honorably given to the peach as the queen of all fruit trees.

(End)

Fruits of Wisdom

Secrecy is for the happy, misery, hopeless misery needs no veil; under a thousand suns it dares act openly. —Schiller.

* * *

In all companies there are more fools than wise men, and the greater part always gets the better of the wiser.—Rabelais.

* * *

The mean of true valor lies between the extreme of cowardice and rashness.—Cervantes.

Thailand—Granary of the South

Rice Production Holds Position of Foremost Importance in Nation's Agricultural Economy

By TOKUHISA MORI
Superintendent of the Nogyo Keizai Kenkyujo
(From the Sozo)

Familiarly known as the granary of the Malai Peninsula and the East Indies, Thailand's agricultural economy largely depends on her highly developed rice production. Besides, owing to the construction of elaborate facilities for utilizing irrigation methods, Thailand has rarely experienced the damaging droughts and floods which occur in Burma and India. The inhabitants, similar to those of other areas within the Southern Common Prosperity Region, subsist on rice as their staple food. The economic system is, therefore, peculiar to that of any agricultural country with primitive methods of rice cultivation. Aside from this grain, she has no agricultural products worthy of mention. From this point of view, unlike the other farming populations of the Southern Region, the importance of the part the Thai people will perform in the construction of the Common Prosperity Region is necessarily basically different.

Eighty-five per cent of the Thai population or 12,750,000 are tillers of the soil. It is safe to assume that apart from the 1,200,000 or so living in the capital, Bangkok, the balance of the population are all farmers. With such a vast majority looking for livelihood to the agricultural villages, which form the backbone of Thailand, the greater part of the farmers, though mainly engaged in cultivating rice, have shown scant regard for the agricultural enterprise displayed by their neighbors in French Indo-China, Malai and the East Indies who have adopted European and American capital and technique.

Obstructed Development

By disregarding the production of special agricultural products such as rubber, cotton and coffee, the Thai farmers were not only retarded in their advancement from a rice dependent country, but were compelled to be content with marketing their cheaper produce. The British Empire, meanwhile, in their desire to protect their monopolistic hold on Malai and Burma and preserve British interests, adopted the policy of obstructing the general development of the agricultural economy of Thailand unmindful of the unfavorable effects it would have not only on the Thai inhabitants but in the maintenance of that country's national integrity.

However, the long years of subservience to British political and economical pressure and almost complete reliance on her own rice industry contributed to making rice her principal export. In 1940, Thailand's exports amounted to ¥226,000,000, of which rice accounted for ¥113,000,000 or half of the aggregate. It is, indeed, heartening to witness Thailand today, together with the other exportable rice producing countries of French Indo-China and Burma, forming one of the three great and vital sources of food supply within the East Asia Common Prosperity Region and spurred on by a new impetus. The unscrupulous design of Britain, politically as well as economically, of the past is now reacting against her. The essential role borne by Thailand in the maintenance of food production in East Asia at this present decisive moment in the war—not to mention her actual function as a food supply center for Japan, Malai, Java, South China, the Philippines and other sections of the Common Prosperity Region, including, very naturally, her own people—must not be overlooked.

Britain to Blame

Although the area under rice cultivation in Thailand is approximately the same as in Japan, with a yearly increase averaging about 3,500,000 chobu, it is still only 6 per cent of the entire territory. Moreover, even if the comparison is made with the 26,000,000 chobu earmarked for cultivation, the percentage is not more than 16 per cent. The circumstances in which Thailand finds herself today she owes in a great measure to Britain, who politically and economically conditioned her development. In this respect, it is interesting to note that along the basin of the Menam River, which flows through the capital Bangkok, there is a concentration of farm labor which is rapidly transforming the Menam River plain to rely on commercial economy with rice serving as the medium. In contrast, the most promising areas for cultivation, known as the Korat Plateau and the regions lying along the tributaries of the Mekong River such as the southern district of Laos and particularly Pakse Province, are conspicuously undeveloped even to this day. Despite the fact that productive farmers live on self-sufficiency standard and are very primitive in their methods, it would be amiss to forget that the most important Thai rice producing centers are situated in the central plains of Menam and the eastern plateau of Korat.

As previously stated, Thailand has a population of 15,000,000, of which 35 per cent or 12,750,000, divided into 2,700,000 or 2,800,000 households, are engaged in agricultural pursuits. It is estimated that in the central Menam plains an average family tills a land of about 4 chobu, whereas in the eastern Korat Plateau region on the average is only 1 cho. The latter farms are, however, mainly privately owned, but there are large landholders in the central Menam plains. The farming families are roughly divided into the following categories, but it should be kept in mind that in this region there are concentrated many agricultural laborers, leaving very little uncultivated land.

	Land-owner	Private	Tenant
	(In percentages)		
Central Menam Plains.	26	45	29
Eastern Korat Plateau.	5	90	5
Southern Coastal Area.	17	66	17
Northern Plateau Area	11	78	11

The problem now arises regarding the reorganization of the land ownership in the Thai agricultural economy, which becomes all the more pressing with the development of the rice economy. The concentration of land in the hands of absentee landlords, giving rise to an increase in tenant agriculturists, calls for earnest settlement of the agricultural economy and land problems. The government, on its part, must naturally be investigating means of facilitating land purchases by tenants, enabling them to become and maintain themselves as private holders.

Owing to geographical proximity and racial affinity, as well as to the benevolent attitude of the Thai Government, in the past years, there had always been a heavy Chinese immigration. Today there are more than 2,500,000 Chinese engaged in intermediate trade and financing of the rice industry, milling, river transport, etc., comprising every field of commercial enterprises; these they monopolize.

The Phibun Government has adopted effective measures to deal with the agricultural economic activities of the local Chinese, and are reorganizing the trade in agricultural products by instituting governmental control and cooperative societies. It will be recalled, that in 1938 the Chinese rice exporting trade launched a boycott against Japan, which resulted in the Thai Government finally establishing—at Japan's request—a government controlled rice trading company, purchasing rice direct from the farmers and bringing rice mills under its operation.

Purchasing Bodies Supported

Not only are credit associations being encouraged in Thailand in order to smooth the financing of the rice industry, but purchasing associations for buying up the rice are receiving support. With the cooperation of rice growing farmers, a system of associations comprising 100 to 200 or 300 households have been strengthened, and they are urged to send their rice direct to the government-owned rice company through the cooperatives. As the Government is also endeavoring to handle the production, price, collection, transportation, manufacturing and export of Thai rice, it would do well not only to study the development of the Japanese industrial movement of the past 40 years but institute a thorough investigation of the present situation of the farmers of Thailand.

The agricultural setup of the great Menam plain, with Bangkok as the pivot is a rice economy. The Phibun Cabinet, basing their reorganization on two great principles, have not only in the fields of agriculture, industry and commerce carried out their policy of governmental control, but have also extended the control—besides the handling of rice—to the manufacturing of paper, oil, can, canned goods, leather, tobacco, sugar and even biscuits.

In the construction of the Greater East Asia Common Prosperity Region, our sister nation Thailand is now facing a significant political and economic transformation. The Japanese, without any hesitation, should unreservedly afford assistance in the industrial development of that country, which necessarily demands priority and a fresh development in our diplomatic relations. At this juncture, what is required of French Indo-China, Thailand, Burma, and the Philippines is a clear-cut development of the military administration diplomacy to productive diplomacy, a closely combined cooperation in the fields of agriculture and industry by the peoples of both countries, with Japan providing men with character, technique, organizing power and administrative ability to these countries and actively participating in directing productive economy.